Russian counterpart were also present. Minister of State called on Russian dignatries including Mr. Yakov M Urinson, First Deputy Minister of Economy of the Russian Federation, Mr. M. E. Fradkov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Mr. Yuri Federovich Yarov, Deputy Prime Minister. The main points in their talks included discussion on utilisation of debt repayment, development of Novorrossisk port, matters relating to Indo-Russian Joint Commission, Russian Investments in Joint venture in India, the agreement on promotion and rediprocal protection of investments, and measures for raising the level of bilateral trade between Russia and India to 50 billion in next 2-3 years.

(c) After the break-up former USSR, this event exposed of Russian business community to large variety of goods produced and services given by Indian business Community, and there was one to one interaction between the business community of the two countries. It also generated good will among the Russian public.

Conversion of Dankuni Coal Complex into a Joint Venture

*219. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to convert Dankuni Coal Complex into a joint venture;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the terms of such private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Low Temperature Carbonisation (LTC) plant at Dankuni in West Bengal is presently incurring heavy losses resulting in adverse effect on Coal India Limited's financial results. Many action points have been identified to bring about overall improvement in financial performance of LTC Plant. One of the suggestions put forward is to explore the possibility of entrusting the production and distribution of coke and coal gases to a joint venture company with Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC) and Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation (GCGSC) as partners.

As of now Coal India Ltd, (CIL) are directing their efforts towards making the unit viable through maximisation of production and speedy development of market for the products.

Export of Engineering Goods

*220. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of engineering sector items have been made during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of items exported.

(c) whether some target for export of engineering items was fixed for 1993-94;

(d) if so, the details thereof in crores of rupees;

(e) whether Government have fixed some target for export of engineering items during 1994-95;

(f) if so, details thereof in items of crores of rupees; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Provisional exports of engineering sector items during 1993-94 were Rs. 8406 crores. The product groups included in this sector are ferro alloys, aluminium other than products, non ferrous metals, manufactures of metals, machine tools, machinery and instruments, transport equipment, residual engineering items, iron & steel bars/rods etc. and primary and semi finished iron & steel.